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Points of Convergence

Isaiah 40:31

Thomas Michael Smith
9/16/01

BACK TO MAIN SERMON PAGE

- **Today is the third anniversary celebration for New Focus**
- **New Focus is an all-church ministry; while we have many programs and ministries, and people are attracted to those of interest to them, or to ones that the Spirit has led them to, in the case of New Focus, this is ministry to which we are all to be committee**
- **It is an effective change-management ministry - as you will hear this morning, people's lives are changed, their priorities re-oriented, their families set on a better path, a positive future now possible**
- **New Focus continues to have a high drop out rate - why? Because it is a ministry rooted in accountability, in letting your 'yes be yes,' and doing what you commit to do, no matter how hard it may be**
- **I would like to invite all persons who have been or are now involved in our New Focus ministry to stand … thank you**
- **This morning you will hear from four sets of people - two CPC Volunteers who have worked with New Focus for some time, one person who came to New Focus as a 'member' in great need, stayed with the program, and is so much a success story that she is now helping others; and finally from a couple who have also benefited from this ministry**
- **New Focus touches everyone - single women with children who are at the Vacaville homeless shelter, Opportunity House, and couples who have comfortable incomes, who dress like you and me, who are just as much at wits ends**

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- **I want to thank all of those who spoke this morning, and to remind you of the various points at which this incredible ministry converges in the real lives of people**

[Read Isaiah 40:31]

- **Though I am fond of nature programs, I wasn't aware that an eagle typically knows when a storm is approaching long before it breaks. Sensing the moisture in the air, or a change in the wind conditions, the eagle flies to some high point in the sky and waits for the fierce winds to come**
- **While the storm rages below, the eagle is soaring high above it**
- **Note that the eagle does not escape the storm - it simply uses the storm to lift it higher; it rises on the winds that bring the storm**
- **When the storms of life come upon us, as they certainly have this past week, and as we all experience regularly, we can rise above them by setting our minds and our belief toward God.**
- **The storms do not have to overcome us - we can allow God's power to lift us above them, and God enables us to ride the winds of the storm that bring sickness, tragedy, failure and disappointment in our lives**

- **We can soar above the storm**
- **It is not the burdens of life that weigh us down - it is how we handle them, how we react**

BACK TO MAIN SERMON PAGE

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